

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 19:12:34 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: "New" W7ZOI book
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 95 17:56:38 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1995Feb05.175638.18382@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

I sent out a posting a while back about the "new" book by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI called Introduction to RF Design, recently reprinted by ARRL (and presumably no longer in print by Prentice-Hall). As I recall, I sent it out during the period when the address list for qrp-l got tossed in the dumpster by the computer at netcom.com and it was slowly being rebuilt, and not too many people were back on it. For those who didn't see the original posting, about a month ago, please send me e-mail and ask me to send you file HAYWARD from my disk. 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

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Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
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The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 18:39:55 1995
Subject: "OHR Sprint" Rig
From: brian.carling@acenet.com (Brian Carling)
Message-Id: <2a6.9795.500@acenet.com>
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 1995 14:31:00 -0500

>From: brian.carling@acenet.com

RA>he silicon valley:

RA> I was at Halted Electronics yesterday (off Central Exprwy near
RA>Lawrence) and noted that they had the OHR Sprint kit in stock there.

RA>72 de WB6TPU, Ray
RA>raymonda@radium.eng.sun.com

Ray, do you have an address and phone number for this outfit please?

~ SLMR 2.1a ~ Proud member of PETA, People for Eating Tasty Animals

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 18:23:06 1995
From: David Johnson <djohnson@acpub.duke.edu>
Message-Id: <199502052033.PAA01714@bio3.acpub.duke.edu>
Subject: 160m QRP FUN
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 15:33:28 -0500 (EST)

Are others having fun with 160m QRP? Let me relate a summary of results lately. Ant is inverted L, following the design from CQ (1988). Used Kenwood TS440 turned down to 4w for the ARRL 160m cw contest on Dec 4, 1994. Worked 8 states! Nov 20, 1994 worked NJ on homebrew xmtr running 37 microwatts, for approx ten million miles per watt (sorry, math was wrong in previous posting claiming billions; must have been thinking I was Carl Sagan 8-) !!! Then in mid-january I finally got the mods done for the TS50, to provide about 1 and 5 watts out. So using this rig in the CQ 160m cw contest on Jan 27-28, I worked about 20 states (not sure if NK7U in OR got my call complete; otherwise 20 states even!) plus Ontario, Bermuda, and Virgin Isl., all on 950 mW !! Top band is a real blast!

Dave

--

David W. Johnson	Power is no substitute for skill
Amateur Extra WA4NID	QRP ARCI 6546
email: djohnson@acpub.duke.edu	G-QRP 4864
packet WA4NID@KB4WGA.NC.USA.NA	NorCal 355

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 13:44:32 1995
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 09:55:08 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199502051755.JAA14868@netcom14.netcom.com>
Subject: a

a

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 18:12:20 1995
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 95 14:50:11 EST
From: Don Bullard <DBULLARD@uga.cc.uga.edu>
Subject: A helpful program
Message-Id: <950205.150523.EST.DBULLARD@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU>

No, this does not directly pertain to the QRP-L but hopefully it will be useful to enough of you to be worthwhile. I save many of the posts here on the QRP-L for later printing on my HP DeskJet 520 printer. I found a program at OAK.OAKLAND.EDU that has resulted in a tremendous savings in paper. It allows you to print 8 pages on a single sheet of paper. I printed out a 64 page FAQ file on only 8 sheets of paper (front and back). I printed out the entire QRP-L subscriber list (over 450) on a single sheet of paper front and back. The print quality and readability are excellent. The program is called p821_v24.zip and is found in the directory SimTel/msdos/deskjet. It has too many features to list here. If you have a DeskJet or HP-Laserjet 4, 4L or compatible you will find

it useful.

72, Don, WA4IML

dbullard@uga.cc.uga.edu

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 11:22:02 1995

Date: Sun, 5 Feb 95 13:51 GMT

From: jlivingston@cix.compulink.co.uk (John Livingston)

Subject: Re: ARGONAUT DEAF

Message-Id: <memo.294927@cix.compulink.co.uk>

In-Reply-To: <9502041519.0LJF400@circellar.com>

I didn't check with Ten-Tec - suppose I should ! I would be interested to find out what the microvolts/S9 figure on other Argo 515s shows up as - this needs a high grade low leakage RF source, of course. Any body care to measure it ?

On the matter of cleaning bandswitch wafers - I cleaned them several times with different brands of cleaning fluid. All of them gave a temporary cure, but the problem came back again. Probably the only permanent cure, short of a redesign of the switching path, would be to use a switch wafer with gold plated contacts, but I've no idea where to find one. Shorting the switch permanently is no real problem - it just means that you have to adjust the dial calibration slightly on 10 and 15.

John Livingston jlivingston@cix.compulink.co.uk

G4FDD G-QRP 431

+44(0)1904 794305 FAX +44(0)1904 657778

----- Original Message -----

>From scott.thomas@circellar.com Sat Feb 4 22:11:48 1995

Received: from pcnet1.pcnet.com ([165.113.13.3]) by tom.compulink.co.uk (8.6.9/8.6.9) with SMTP id WAA02844 for

<jlivingston@cix.compulink.co.uk>; Sat, 4 Feb 1995 22:11:48 GMT

Received: from circellar.com by pcnet1.pcnet.com (4.1/SMI-4.1)

id AA24204; Sat, 4 Feb 95 17:16:14 EST

Received: by circellar.com

id 0LJF400N Sat, 04 Feb 95 15:19:57 -0500

Message-Id: <9502041519.0LJF400@circellar.com>

Organization: Circuit Cellar, Inc.

X-Mailer: TBBS/PIMP v3.24

Date: Sat, 04 Feb 95 15:19:57 -0500

Subject: ARGONAUT DEAF

To: jlivingston@cix.compulink.co.uk

>From: scott.thomas@circellar.com

Apparently-To: jlivingston@cix.compulink.co.uk

Hello John. There are a good many argonaut 515 owners on this list including me, so your listing is well worth while. Just curious if you've contacted TenTec regarding the poor sensitivity on 10m, and if so, if they were of help?

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 17:49:06 1995
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 15:03:26 -0500 (EST)
From: Jim Stafford-W4QO <w4qo@america.net>
Subject: Atlanta/No. GA QRPers sought
Message-Id: <Pine.SV4.3.91.950205145854.13587C-1000000@atl11.america.net>

If you live withing "striking" distance of Atlanta and are active or interested in QRP, please drop me a reply via the net. I will compile the list and return you a copy. I would also like to encourage you to visit the QRP forum at HamRadio 95, the south's newest hamfest on April 8 at 3 PM.

I am not trying to start a club, however, I must admit that the NorCal group has a lot of appeal. No officers, no dues, just fun. Meet once a month. Perhaps the "list" that gets compiled will want to get together sometime after the hamfest or have a QRP night in North Georgia.

Let me hear from you. (I have a few names already, but send again please.)

72, Jim, W4QO

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 21:25:25 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Available files
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 95 18:48:59 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1995Feb05.184859.22112@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Here are some of the files I have on the disk at my host which I can e-mail on request if anyone wants to see them; most have been posted to the qrp list in the past.

INTRORFD (also stored under the old file name of HAYWARD)--note about the "new" book by W7ZOI titled Introduction to RF Design, a reprint by ARRL

FBT0--notes on the computerized bibliography of ham radio articles; the program goes by the name of From Beverage To Oscar, is currently being updated, and should be done in a month or three.

GQRP--reprint of my article in the QRP Quarterly a while back, an introduction to the GQRP club in the UK for those not familiar with it (these are the folks who publish SPRAT)

KEYCAD--notes on the computer drawing program which I use to make schematics and some drawings for the Idea Exchange in the QRP Quarterly (also used by KI6DS for QRPp)

COPYFAQ--explains some things about copyright as it relates to use of things on e-mail/Internet; good reading for someone who wants to use something from cyberspace in a QRP publication

TAC1--first impressions on viewing the prototype of the latest QRP rig from Dick, KA3ZOW of S&S Engineering--this time around he uses a rotary knob and digital display!

If anyone wants to see one of these, send me e-mail requesting it by name. 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

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From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Feb 6 02:41:40 1995
From: rohrwerk@holonet.net
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 21:18:23 -0800
Message-Id: <199502060518.VAA04138@holonet.net>
Subject: RE: Class D & E amplifier

On 02-02-95 JEVERHART@cayman.vf.ge.com wrote

> Some years ago RCA Broadcast Division had a product line of AM
> broadcast transmitters using switching techniques for high efficiency.

So did Gates (now a part of Harris). I baby-sat a 5 kW AM tube rig that used a Class D modulator. I didn't service it, so didn't absorb the details, but I think it was just a switching modulator, with pulse width modulation, in series with the PA plate supply. The 100-some kHz products were filtered somewhere along the way, and you had nice hi-fi, low distortion AM without the iron of a big transformer, and no bias supplies to fiddle with in modulator tubes.

I'm sure many solid state units now use such techniques.

: John Seboldt rohrwerk@holonet.net / I am Bach of Borg...
: Amateur radio K0JD... / your style will be
: Church of the Annunciation, / assimilated.

: Minneapolis /

-> Alice4Mac 2.3 E QWK Eval:05Mar94

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 21:18:12 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Re copyright on e-mail & postings
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 95 17:53:32 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1995Feb05.175332.18382@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Someone recently posted a commentary about requesting permission before using anything found on e-mail. There is an FAQ floating around about copyright, with a title something like "10 myths about copyright"; the version I stumbled across had a disclaimer that it was not the final draft, but still quite interesting. If anyone would like to see what someone else has to say about copyright vs. the Internet, please send me e-mail and ask me to send file COPYFAQ. (This especially applies to people who want to use postings to qrp-l in QRP journals.) 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

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From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 15:03:34 1995
From: Kirkekirk@aol.com
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 14:12:07 -0500
Message-Id: <950205140501_13617342@aol.com>
Subject: Field Day

Anyone op fd on Mt. Mitchell, NC. May do it QRP this year.

AA4YZ/8
Canton, Oh

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 13:20:19 1995
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 10:21:25 -0500 (EST)
From: Michael Marmor <mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com>
Subject: Fluke / SPRAT?
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950205102032.9046A-100000@pluto.njcc.com>

Hello all - Thanks to everyone who sent me info about their DMM's! Many people highly recommended Fluke - I am now the proud owner of a Fluke model 79. This appears to be a very high quality instrument (at least compared to what I had been using!) that I will enjoy using for years to come. Thanks guys.

Totally unrelated: Does anyone know what SPRAT stands for? (this is not the punchline of a joke, I really DON'T know what SPRAT means!)

73

Michael, AA2UJ
mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 18:04:39 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Re: Fluke / SPRAT?
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 95 16:31:27 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1995Feb05.163127.13886@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Yes, I know what SPRAT stands for: Small Powered Radio Amateur Transmitter (or something very close to that; I saw it in SPRAT once). Also, "sprat" is a legitimate English word (as in "Jack Sprat could eat no fat"...); I'll leave it to you to look it up in a dictionary, but it's a play on words here. 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

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From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 16:44:42 1995
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 11:58:20 -0700 (MST)
From: Robert Cutter <bcutter@csn.org>
Subject: Heliograph
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9502051159.A21086-01000000@teal.csn.org>

This may be a bit off subject but I am looking for Heliograph Instruments. You know, sun telegraph, Geronomo, South West etc. Any leads would be appreciated. I understand they were used by Canadian Armed forces into the mid 20th century.

My purpose is to try to recreate some of the old distance records set.

72, Bob KI0G

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 11:34:24 1995
Message-Id: <2f34b6cd.pandora@pandora.uucp>
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 1995 19:30:20 +0800
From: "W. Daniel, 9V1ZV" <pandora!daniel@csar.csah.com>
Subject: List of QRP-L callsigns and e-mail addresses

Hi Gang,

Yep, its me coming out from the dust. Say, I was wondering if anyone maintained a list of all the callsigns (and possibly corresponding e-mail) of all the guys on this list? I would like to have it so in case I work one of you I know. I am now pretty active on 20m so it maybe possible that I run into one of you and if I hear your QRP signal I want to make an extra effort to work it. Now adays, I can usually hear USA and Canada over the polar path (you can hear the polar flutter) at about 1500 to 1700 UTC or so. I keep hoping to run into one of you guys. Granted that I am running QRO now cos conditions are so bad here with high levels of QRN.

Some other news, in the last 2.5 months, I've worked 104 or more separate DXCC so my initial project is through. This is 100% CW on 20m only. My next is to do the same with my ARK 20. My antenna is just a simple 20m resonant dipole so I hardly get to chase or play with the fox on 40m. If however anyone here is in need, or wants, 9V1 for DXCC or whatever, just e-mail me.

My other project which I've been working on is also complete. This is a software project, which is actually a logging software. The software has a built-in terminal, built-in memory keyer. The s/w supports most ICOM radios, has DX-Cluster support with auto-spotting, auto-QSY, auto everything. The logger will use EMS if available, without EMS it will store up to 8600+ QSOs in conventional memory. Has built in editor, automatic DXCC idenfication, distance calculation, QSO-history matching (ie. if you've worked the guy before), multitasking, mouse-supported (you can drag the window around while data in coming in on the terminal window, and while you spin the dial and see the frequency, time, date and mode being updated, and while you hear the keyer sending its programmable macros). Kinda neat actually. You can also send CW from the keyboard. While testing it yesterday, I created a mini-pileup and worked 135 stations in a row. It was quite an experience. Now, I want to see how I can do the same for my ARK 20. To add a frequency readout module that is. This shud not be too hard to do. If anyone here happens to be using an ICOM rig on the side of your QRP main rig, (and possibly using a TNC on the side), let me know and I will send you a copy of the software for Beta testing.

Now, lesseeee, QRP 20m CW DXCC in these conditions.... hmmm..... any comments?

73 de 9V1ZV Daniel

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+-----+-----+
| Daniel Wee | daniel%pandora@csah.com |
| 9V1ZV      | daniel.wee@f516.n600.z6.fidonet.org |
| UUCP1.12j  | Packet: 9V1ZV @ 9V1VS.SGP.AS -- |
+-----+-----+
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From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 18:43:04 1995
Subject: Novice Round-Up

From: brian.carling@acenet.com (Brian Carling)
Message-Id: <2a6.9797.500@acenet.com>
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 1995 14:31:00 -0500

>From: brian.carling@acenet.com

BY>Hows everyone doing in the Novice RoundUp ? So far, I've worked 38
BY>novice/technicians and one DX sta, HP1AC, Cam in Panama. The bands are not i
BY>the best of shape but thats normal. Nice to see a little DX getting in, thru
BY>the noise.

BY>72, Byron WA8LCZ

I hear VERY few novices. I worked two so far and a boat load of Techs.
I even got a WP4 in Puerto Rico who was a novice. Lots of fun.
73 de AF4K

~ SLMR 2.1a ~ Proud member of PETA, People for Eating Tasty Animals

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Feb 6 00:05:33 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 19:53:05 -0500
Message-Id: <950205195302_13852119@aol.com>
Subject: Novice Round-Up

The last Novice Round-Up is now history. I had hoped for more activity but
all in all, it was fun. I Worked Novices from a 9 yr old YL named Jenny to a
70 yr old timer. From a Tech in Kodiak Alaska to Calif, North Dakota, South
Dakota, New Hamshire, Washington and Oregon. Not bad for the bottom of the
solar cycle.

Worked 8 states on 80m, 18 states on 40m, 8 states on 15m and didnt hear any
activity on 10m.

Heard W6DDB of Bills Basics fame from CQ magazine. Talked to Cam, HP1AC in
Panama City. And, heard a lot of Novices/Techs that need more code practice.
Some I couldnt even copy.

With casual operating over the the last 9 days, i worked 51 contacts in 34
S/P/C's.

How did the rest of you do ?

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 13:02:46 1995
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 09:18:33 -0800
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Message-Id: <199502051718.JAA15972@netcom15.netcom.com>
Subject: QRP+ Observations REVISED (long)

Thursday last week I posted a short (?) set of observations on my newly-arrived QRP+. I received over a dozen supportive responses, and several requests to reprint the article as a "review". I've corrected and clarified several of the points, and added a few more that have since been noted. At this point I'd be comfortable having the article used as a "review" provided that the text is reprinted in it's entirety and attributed to me (along with my internet address). This article is solely my own set of opinions and I have no connection with Index Labs other than as a satisfied (and hoping to be a repeat) customer.

A few people were concerned that I might be casting the QRP+ in a negative light. That is absolutely not my intent. I'm excited and thrilled by the radio, more so than any other radio since my original Ten-Tec Argonaut in 1972. I do feel, however, that most product reviews are very incomplete and uninformative, and biased by who-paid-what and who-advertises-where issues. I paid full-boat for this radio and I feel I paid a fair price, so my opinions are pretty much unaffected by that bias.

Anyway, here goes the corrected version. Again, I respect the concerns over bandwidth used for this...

February 5, 1995, Denver, CO (DM79) by WB0GAZ.

The QRP+ arrived last Thursday after being back-ordered for about 8 weeks. Not bad (considering Ten-Tec backordered me 6 MONTHS on the 1280 kit!). The only rub here was getting "two-weeked" for two months, but then again Ten-Tec did exactly the same thing on the 1280. The QRP+ was ordered 15-Nov-94, originally committed for delivery 05-Dec-94, and actually received 01-Feb-95.

My unit is serial number 0385. I took it out of the box, plugged it in, and started making these observations. I have not talked to Index Labs at all since I received the unit. In addition, these observations and opinions are solely my own and not based on coaching from any other user (except for one factual correction to number 9 below discovered when I posted a preliminary version of this writeup). As a point of reference, I am primarily a SSB operator, have a moderate home station (45 foot tower with tribander, 2 element 40M beam, etc.), with my main interests

in VHF/UHF weak signal work, contesting, and tinkering with radio equipment, particularly tube gear. I've been licensed since 1971 and QRPing since 1972 (homebrew & Ten-Tec). I am not exclusively a QRP operator but do prefer that mode, so these comments are not made by a QRP purist by any stretch of the imagination. I will admit to being a strong fan of small, cute SSB & CW transceivers.

What follows was first posted 01-Feb-95, and is reprinted here with a few corrections and additions.

Most people glow over the QRP+. I'll report the less-good news too. None of these are show-stoppers, but they are worth mentioning...

1. My rig is somewhat microphonic. If I tap the case and am listening to CW, I definately hear the artifacts. It's not terrible, but it's the only synthesized rig I've had that does this. I discovered the microphonics while trying to find the source of the cabinet resonance (next item below). Under normal service it has no strange behavior, but if I listen to a fixed carrier and tap moderately on the top of the cabinet, I hear strong dispersion for about 1/10 second.

2. The cabinet has a pretty severe resonance right around the peak frequency of the CW filter. That is, there is a secondary audio raspiness emitted from the cabinet itself right at some tone frequency when the audio gain is not kept very low. I suspect this can be fixed by properly padding the speaker mounts. The speaker is ample at max volume (save for the resonance) and sounds OK but not great. At first I questioned the linearity (or non-linearity) of the volume control (volume grows mostly in the last 20% of rotation) but then decided for headphone AND speaker use I'd rather have the control as it is.

3. There is no support for "opposite" sideband. You get the "normal" sideband typical for the band in question. I looked at the schematic and can't see why he didn't include opposite sideband support. Sometimes I want to listen to this stuff! This one bugs me bigtime. The reason for this is my wish to use the QRP+ with transverters for satellite access.

4. The AGC recovery time is pretty slow, and can't be adjusted by front panel controls. I prefer faster, particularly in a contesting situation. This one bugs me too.

5. There is a really strong "thump" when the AGC attacks on a strong received signal. Even my Argonaut is not as bad in this. It's livable, but I think the AGC capacitor charging circuitry probably is too-high impedance. The degree of "thump" is related to the strength of the received signal, and I suspect the powerful audio amplifier and efficient

speaker contribute to the magnitude of the thump sometimes.

6. I really wish there was a means of lighting the front panel meter and frequency readout. It would not have cost much, and would make the rig usable in poor-light or poor-eyesight situations. Lighting would obviously have a power-consumption impact, but it would be trivial to make it switchable. Even my little Standard C108A has a backlit LCD and it's been running for a long time on a pair of AA cells. The C108A even has a timeout option on the lighting, which I really like.

7. The arrangement of the front-panel button for "fast" tuning is not optimal. For a right-handed operator, you pretty well need two hands to tune in the "fast" mode. Either he should have made the button "latching" (hold it down for a few seconds and it stays in the fast mode hands-off) or repositioned it on the lower-right corner of the button array (preferably making this option switchable for left- and right-handed operators). Either would be an easy firmware fix.

8. There is no Noise Blanker. I realized this up-front, and perhaps due to the 50 MHz single-conversion IF it can't be done easily, but I really do miss the NB. The electric fence across the street is plainly audible. It was over the NB issue that I delayed ordering the QRP+ for about four months. I regret having waited so long, and didn't initially realize that there might be a good reason for not offering one.

9. I had complained before about losing the VFO frequency when I inadvertently hit the "memory" button. A second hit of the button sets things back to VFO, just as I had originally wanted. I was in error on the first posting. Call it sensory overload...

10. I think some people have complained of poor transmit audio. As far as I can tell, the rig does fine with full 5W PEP output, but the mic gain has to be run up pretty far with my run-of-the-mill dynamic hand-mic. I do wish the mic gain and CW sidetone controls weren't recessed; there is no decent reason why not to let them protrude from the back panel slightly just like the CW speed control. P.S., I'm using a really cute little hand-mic that came with an old TRIO 2200 2M FM rig of 1972 vintage. Too cute!

After some more use, I continued to investigate and I feel that it is a struggle to get a robust (fully modulated) SSB signal out of the rig. I measured PEP vs average power on a Bird 43P with a 50H slug, and after further testing think the rig is somehow fighting me when I try to get consistent full PEP output. I do notice that the rig has some pretty extensive ALC circuitry, where the original Ten-Tec Argonaut (a point of comparison) does not seem to. I haven't looked at the rig's output on the scope. I have tried several other microphones but get the

same type of results. I have not purchased the microphone sold by Index Labs.

11. The use of memories as a band-switching mechanism is at first a bit counter-intuitive, but it really seems like it will work out well.

12. The front end drives the mixer directly. I can definately tell the reduction in gain on the higher bands, altho I'm not too worried about this. The catch here is I have antennas well up in the air. If I had a marginal antenna, I might not be so satisfied with receiver gain. Actually, the pathway from the antenna to the speaker is _remarkably_ straight-forward (antenna->TR->mixer->IF->BFO->audio)!

13. The variable bandwidth filter is plain AMAZING. I use a TS940 for contesting, and this is the first rig that handles narrow-bandwidth SSB as well. He seemed to take some care to center the filter passband appropriate for SSB in narrow modes; even down to 800 Hz bandwidth the received SSB is understandable. This is definately one of the strong points. THIS FILTER IS WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION!

A follow-on comment: the switched capacitor filter is not a DSP. It has a big benefit in one way over a DSP: the SCAF is pre-AGC, so the AGC is not fooled by out-of-passband signals. I think some newer DSPs offer post-DSP gain recovery (to compensate for this effect), but having used SCAF and DSP, I really prefer SCAF (except for carrier-killing).

Another follow-on comment: Not being a diehard CW operator, I tend to like my CW note right about where he designed it. However, a number of friends of mine (including some really heavyweight testers) run their CW note much lower in frequency (it helps separate nearby signals). Unlike passband tuning, you can't change the CW note when you go to narrower and narrower selectivity. If you ever used a Heathkit HW16 you know what I mean about wanting to control the CW note.

14. I wish he offered an RS-232 control port. It would not be that hard given the existing microprocessor in the rig. Perhaps we can hope for a "MARK II" model with this and other enhancements. I'll certainly be game. My hope here is to use the QRP+ with a HP48 calculator that has an RS-232 port. The HP48 can do many amazing tricks, is small and low power. People have even used them as packet terminals (not easy, but possible). I hope he gives some careful thought to the control protocol if he does offer this option, because a clean control protocol can be a real pleasure to program around.

15. When I tried the rig on 10M, I noticed much lower power output than elsewhere - about 2 watts vs. 5-7 (at 13.8V DC supply). This I find strange, because even at 24 MHz the rig is basically a "5 watt"

class output. I can't imagine that there is inadequate gain in the transmit signal path, so perhaps this is an output filter issue.

16. The rig doesn't let you change frequencies while transmitting. This is probably a good precaution, but if I use it as an IF for a satellite uplink, I need that capability for doppler compensation. You might say "this rig wasn't intended for satellite", but remember that there is a satellite mode with 28 and 21 MHz operation, so I do have aspirations of setting up a satellite ground station while camping out (with a small secondary receiver).

17. When I first wired up my little hand mic, the mic's PTT switch turned out to be intermittent (the mic hadn't been used since 1973). Sometimes when I would push PTT it wouldn't engage cleanly. I noticed that the rig sometimes gave a brief sidetone burst (the key/paddle was never plugged in). Also, several times the main frequency knob quit responding after one of these intermittent PTT operations (even after going back to receive mode). I wonder if the firmware gets lost by a "bouncy" PTT signal. The display continued to work, but to get the frequency control running again required power cycling the rig. This happened frequently until I hit the PTT switch of the mic with contact cleaner (by the way, the contact cleaner product KRYLON 1380 is excellent, the best I've ever used in 25 years).

18. Not being a die-hard CW operator, I've only played with the keyer a little. However, it's speed control (10-45 WPM in 5 WPM steps) I think should permit finer adjustment of CW speed. When I'm contesting, I try to match the speed of people I'm calling (presuming they are most comfortable receiving a similar speed), and the 5 WPM steps might make this a bit difficult. It's a small point, but probably really easy to change in the firmware.

19. There are two accessories I'd really like to see: (1) a small hand mic with a built in keyer paddle (perhaps sticking out of the top of the mic). (2) a soft-case, along the lines of what you could get for the Drake TR-22. I do want to take my QRP+ camping this summer, but I really want to keep it pristine cosmetically.

All things considered, I am pleased with the rig. It's a keeper for sure. I won't pitch my Ten-Tec Argonaut, but this rig is clearly a forward evolution. The rough spots are all minor, and this rig has PERSONALITY, which sets it apart from the rice boxes we get from the big three. This is a unit I'm certain will be sought after cult-style in 10 or 20 years, like the Argonaut is now. He definately stole some thunder from Ten-Tec. Will our friends in Sevierville respond in kind?

Again, sorry for the bandwidth, but I had a number of people that

felt my first posting was a decent review, so I wanted to clean it up and post it "for real" this time.

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Correspondence welcome.

73 Dave Feldman WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Feb 6 02:52:45 1995
From: rohrwerk@holonet.net
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 21:18:14 -0800
Message-Id: <199502060518.VAA04130@holonet.net>
Subject: re: Receiver for General

On 02-01-95 randolph@est.enet.dec.com wrote to qrp-l@netcom.com:

> Yah, I'm currently using a RatShack shortwave rcvr (DX440) as my QRP
> station rcvr.

I did for a while, too... but what a challenge... noisy device... would have done much, much better with a simple direct conversion RX (except for the nice digital readout). It is incapable of anywhere near single signal reception -- the so-called "BFO" tuning, with its deceptive markings USB and LSB, is nothing of the sort, but a "vernier" tuning that moves the passband AND the receiver frequency. The "BFO", in effect, remains smack in the middle of the passband -- permitting you to tune both sides of zero beat with equal ease.

It is, however, a nice device for the price and purpose: general listening if you're not being too fussy.

Only way to improve on the above might be that synchronous detector project in QST a while back -- an external BFO that you can switch to either side of the passband.

: John Seboldt	rohrwerk@holonet.net	/	I am Bach of Borg...
: Amateur radio	K0JD...	/	your style will be
: Church of the Annunciation,		/	assimilated.
: Minneapolis		/	

-> Alice4Mac 2.3 E QWK Eval:05Mar94

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Feb 6 04:29:42 1995
From: JamesH1036@aol.com
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 22:24:29 -0500

Message-Id: <950205214231_13926422@aol.com>
Subject: Review of MFJ-9420x ssb QRP rig

Are there any operators out there with a review of the MFJ-9420X 20 meter ssb travel radio.

I have just completed about 2 hours of operation with the rig and was quite impressed with its performance.

I will be writing a more extensive evaluation to be posted later, but I have not seen any comments about the rig on the QRP-L list and would appreciate any input or comments from other users.

73
KM6MO

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Feb 5 10:49:54 1995
From: ab4el@cybernetics.net (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9502051326.AA05799@cybernetics.net>
Subject: S510I
Date: Sun, 5 Feb 1995 08:26:42 -0500 (EST)

Well, I got back a couple of confirmations from rec.radio.amateur.misc that S510I is indeed in Slovenia! Not bad for 4 watts SSB to an inverted-V on 3.785. Can you imagine what I'd work if I tried? I mean I was just tuning around in an idle moment while monitoring the progress of the SSB QRP Fox. :^)

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC 35.81245N, 78.65849W